

PRESIDENTS' NOTES

Welcome to the new format for our branch newsletter. A huge thank you is due to Connie Schroeder for recommending and managing this change.



On December 5, we participated in a webinar with Kim Churches, AAUW CEO. A few of the takeaways from Kim's update: revenues have increased by 30 percent this year; 102,000 women have been trained through Work Smart and Start Smart; a very large restricted gift was received from the estate of Nancy Grace Roman, astronomer considered to be the mother of the Hubble Space Telescope.

National is working to bolster their public policy team and provide increased attention at the state and grassroots levels where the fight is most likely to be won. There are a growing number of organizations (non- and for-profits, government, etc.) focused on gender equity. With the crowded space that we now share, it is critical that we differentiate our work and focus on what we do well. Kim reminds us that *we cannot afford to be all things to everyone.*

These are the five areas to drive our efforts as we work to promote a gender-equity agenda as key to Election 2020: investing in education; reducing student debt; advocating for equal pay for equal work; strengthening Social Security; and implementing paid leave. And finally, on the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, branches must acknowledge and educate others about its importance and *keep up the fight!*

Cindy Hall and Sally Kalin, Branch Co-presidents



AAUW STATE COLLEGE BRANCH PROGRAM
Thursday, January 23, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Humphrey Fellows lunch & panel discussion:
International Perspectives on Women in Society
Nittany Lion Inn, Penn State Room

- Co-sponsored with Altrusa International of Centre County, Community Diversity Group, Global Connections, and Soroptimist International of Centre County
- Featuring panelists Cerita Buchanan from Jamaica (above left) and Shumaila Memon from Pakistan (above right)
- **Cost to Attend: \$22; RSVPs due 1/15.** Send check made out to "AAUW State College" to Christine Bishop, 205 First Avenue, State College, PA 16801.
- Questions? Contact Christine, cbishop@ccysb.com, (814) 441-3571.



BOOK WORKSHOP DONATIONS JANUARY 6 - MARCH 11

Calling All Books! We are in the final weeks of gathering books for our **May 9-12 AAUW State College Used Book Sale!** Dozens of workshop volunteers have worked each week since re-opening last June - to accept donations, cull, sort, and price books. **Thank you, all!** As of the end of November, **2,534 boxes of books** had been packed for the sale, about 300 boxes less than what was packed last year at this time.

There are **TEN WEEKS** to go until the book workshop **closes for the season on March 11.** If you've not visited us before, we are located at 176 Technology Drive in Boalsburg. Donations are preferred at the loading dock during workshop hours: **Mondays, 6:00-8:00 pm, and Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm.** Donations also are accepted 24/7 through March 11 in the outdoor blue donation bins.

Our Used Book Sale is the financial engine for all that we do in this community. We need your help sharing this information with friends, work groups, and your volunteer and social networks. Your efforts make a difference! <https://drive.google.com/file/d/16Ugq5xHpeF59Q2jqGVeQaTLmCqtqrikM/view?usp=sharing>



AAUW STATE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for the 2020-2021 academic year open on January 13, 2020 and close on March 1, 2020. AAUW State College Branch is seeking applicants for four undergraduate scholarships to be awarded for the academic year 2020-2021.

An applicant must be a woman who:

- *is a permanent resident of Centre County;*
- *has interrupted her studies for at least two years;*
- *has completed at least 15 credits toward her associate or 30 credits toward her baccalaureate degree;*
- *attends an institution of higher education on a part-time or full-time basis;*
- *demonstrates financial need, academic promise, and clarity of educational goals and service to the community.*

References and financial information are required. The awards range from \$3,000 to \$7,000 depending on financial need and the recipients' circumstances. The application process opens on Monday, January 13, 2020 and the deadline to apply is March 1, 2020. Please share this information with those who may be eligible and interested in applying. For details, visit www.aauwstatecollege.org. For additional information, contact Falene Hamilton: hfalene@gmail.com or Suzanne Kerlin at suziekerlin@gmail.com.



RECOGNIZING OURSELVES AND OUR PARTNERS

Take a moment to think about your AAUW colleagues and our community partners. Is there a member or community partner who stands out in your mind as having worked above and beyond to help achieve our AAUW goals? If so, write a brief paragraph on how that person, group, or organization meets the criteria found on the Awards page of

our Branch website: http://www.aauwstatecollege.org/about/branch_awards.html. Submit your nomination(s) to Chriss Schultz, cschultz8g@gmail.com by **January 18, 2020**.

Outstanding Woman

This award is given to a member of the Branch for meritorious service to the Branch. Recent past recipients: 2015 - Charlene Harrison; 2016 - Billie Willits; 2017 - Centennial Committee; 2018 - Carol Hodes; 2019 - Sue Johnston

Making a Difference Award

Representing the spirit of AAUW, this member has made a big difference in an important initiative to the Branch within the past year. Recent past recipients: 2015 - Jennifer Karch; 2016 - Connie Schroeder; 2017 - Cindy Hall; 2018 - Michele Crowl; 2019 - Star Campbell

Gateway to Equity Award

Individuals, or groups who, by action and philosophy, have advanced equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research are recognized by this award. Recent past recipients: 2015 - State College Area School District CSI; 2016- Mid-State Literacy Council; 2017 - PSU Commission for Women; 2018 – Penn State Humphrey Fellows Program; 2019 - Interfaith Human Services

Centre County Council for Human Services Volunteer of the Year

The CCCHS recognizes a member organization's nomination for outstanding volunteer service at the April CCCHS Volunteer of the Year dinner. Recent past recipients: 2015 - Donna Trapp; 2016- Del & Steve Scott; 2017 - Mike Williams; 2018 - Jennifer Karch; 2019 - Angie Hay



PRIMARY ELECTION 2020

Our calendar moves up a month in presidential years, in hopes Pennsylvania can have some impact on selection of the nominee. The nominating petition circulation period is Jan. 28-Feb, 18. Primary election day is April 28. We don't have any Senate races in this cycle, as U.S. Senator Pat Toomey and Pennsylvania Senator Jake Corman both come up for reelection in 2022. All members of the Pennsylvania House and the U.S. House are up for reelection. Pennsylvania has three statewide row offices: Attorney General, Treasurer, and Auditor General. All three are term limited to two, four-year terms. Incumbent Attorney General Josh Shapiro and Treasurer Joe Torsella are finishing their first terms and expected to run again. Auditor General Eugene DePasquale is finishing his second term, so moving on to run for Congress in greater Harrisburg. That leaves the seat open. Our own State Rep. Scott Conklin is one of the candidates for that position.

As of this writing (mid-December), we know of no other challengers for any office in this area. Likely that will have changed by the time you read this. One sure thing: people will be running for delegate for the national conventions. If anyone from your party asks you to sign for them, please do.

--Dianne Gregg and Mary Dupuis, Public Policy Co-chairs



EDUCATION VOTERS
of Pennsylvania

Education committee members have been working with Education Voters PA on their charter school legislation reform initiative. We submitted comments on the documents compiled by Education Voters

PA, including their draft of guiding principles for the charter school reform coalition. Let me know if you would like to join our committee. --Carol Hodes, Education Sub-committee, carolhodes@yahoo.com



CHALLENGING SCIENCE INVESTIGATIONS (CSI) SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

CSI, Challenging Science Initiatives, is scheduling AAUW volunteers for the 2020 sessions. CSI will be held this year on **Tuesdays and Thursdays in February** at the high school, in the science area. AAUW volunteers will help the three teachers by staffing the table with building materials for the roller coaster project, and then working with teams of students during the chemistry and Rube Goldberg projects. Each session begins at 4 pm with a snack for the girls, all of whom will be bussed to the high school from the two middle schools. The time for each session is 4:00 - 5:30 pm. Volunteers are asked to arrive around 3:50 pm, so that the visitors' parking area will be available to them and the school busses will have left. We expect about 40 girls for these sessions.

If you can volunteer, please respond to Mary Dupuis at mdupuis73@gmail.com or by phone to 234-1148. Be sure to include your phone number and/or email. Indicate which session(s) you wish to take part in. The dates are Feb 4, 6, 11, 13, 18 and 20. The final celebration will take place on Thursday, Feb 20, at 5 pm. We hope to make this event easy for parents to attend. Everything will take place in the same space, on the first floor of the high school science area. Specific directions for parking and entering the high school will be given to volunteers later. We look forward to working with many of you! --Mary Dupuis and Judy Barille



CENTRE COUNTY GIRLS OFFERED AAUW STEM SCHOLARSHIPS TO SCIENCE-U

Do you know a Centre County girl with a sincere interest in science? If she will be entering grades 6 to 12 next fall, she is eligible to apply for a scholarship to Science-U! The AAUW-State College Branch STEM Committee is again sponsoring scholarships to the fun and educational Science-U Summer Camps held at Penn State. Applications for these Merit-Based STEM Scholarships are now available from the Office of Science Outreach, the organizer of Science-U. To apply for the scholarships, Centre County girls can fill out an application, write an essay, and ask a STEM teacher/mentor to complete a recommendation form. Information about the exciting 2020 Science-U camps may be found at www.ScienceCamps.psu.edu. Scholarships cover the cost of a full week at a Science-U day camp on the University Park campus of Penn State (\$365 - \$440).

Details on the scholarships are located at <https://science.psu.edu/outreach/scienceu/scholarships/aauw>. Completed applications and recommendation forms are due **January 10, 2020** to the Penn State Office of Science Outreach. Interested applicants and their families are invited to contact the Office of Science Outreach with questions at (814) 865-0083, or by emailing sciencecamps@science.psu.edu.



AAUW STATE COLLEGE BRANCH PROGRAM – Details Forthcoming Thursday, February 27, 5:30 pm refreshments; 6:00 – 7:00 pm program *Differences Women Face on Their Financial Journey*

Schlow Centre Region Library - Downsborough Room

Presented by Cynthia Karcher and Nina Cowart, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

RSVPs requested by February 20: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSek1JpZNSjusBAzf-jjLhLCDxInrtrdKrJgKzQIM-o-xm1_Ug/viewform



NOVEMBER 12 STATE COLLEGE AREA HIGH SCHOOL TOUR AN EYE OPENER

The November 12 Branch tour of the newly re-opened State College Area High School, provided by teacher Jennifer Rand, was inspirational. The school serves 2,278 students in grades 8-12. More: <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/state-college-area-high-school-profile>



On November 23, we partnered with Ten Thousand Villages for a community shopping event. Several Branch members helped staff an AAUW table in the store, led by Deb Smith who served as Branch liaison to Ten Thousand Villages. The store offers fairly traded gifts made artisans, mostly women, from around the world. Thank you to all Branch members who participated as staffers or shoppers. We were thrilled to receive 10% of all AAUW-designated purchases made that day, netting \$305 for AAUW State College. Learn more about Ten Thousand Villages at www.tenthousandvillages.com/statecollege.

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, December 5, 2020**, our next TTV community shopping day.



¡ADELANTE! BOOK CLUB

For our January meeting we are reading *Jasmine* by Mukherjee Bharati. We will meet January 30, 2020 at Della Bube's in Foxdale Village, Apartment B 18 at 2:30 pm. Contact Pat Kephart at pbk1@comcast.net or 234-2524 for more information.

Everyone interested is welcome to attend.



Phone number change: **Star Campbell's** new phone number is (814) 954-2148.

Condolences to **Cyndee Graves**, whose father Herbert Graves III died on December 6.

Branch member **Billie Willits** lost her battle with cancer on November 20th. She served as Branch Co-president from 2013-17, chaired our Women's Health and Wellness Committee (within our Public Policy Committee), and led our Strategic Planning and Nominations Committees. She will be sorely missed.



STALKING: PREVENTION, AWARENESS, SURVIVING: ANNA NASSET

**Monday, January 27, 6:30 pm, Flex Theater
HUB-Robeson Center, Penn State**

Join us when Stand Up Resources founder Anna Nasset comes to campus for a powerful program on stalking and sexual violence. The event, which is free and open to all, is sponsored by the Gender Equity Center; the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; University Police, and AAUW State College. Share this event flyer:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t6akmTnznDZueH8FPPQgzn_f7MrHo3Yv/view?usp=sharing